through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generation programmes and assets-building for the poor.

Leasing of Transponders by ISRO

396. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO has leased transponders to private users;

(b) if so, who are the private users of ISRO's transponders; and

(c) what is the lease rentals of a transponder, the number of transponders available with ISRO for leasing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE INTHE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) 9 transponders of INSAT-2E have been leased to INTELSAT. Department of Telecommunication (DoT) has leased 7 Extended C-band transponders to private VSAT operators from the INSAT system.

(c) Lease charges per transponder are approximately 1 million US $ per annum for INTELSAT. DOT charges approximately Rs. 1 crore for a quarter transponder.

Presently no capacity is available in the INSAT system for additional leasing to private users.

Fresh guidelines on MPLADS

397. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently issued fresh guidelines with regard to the MP's Local Area Developmental Schemes;

(b) it so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount released by Government on this account during the last three years, years-wise, and State-wise, and the amount utilised against these grants; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has several times in the past objected to the misutilisation of the fund for ineligible items and, if so, the details thereof?